

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

**We claim:**

1. A computer-based system for providing decision support in a hospital environment comprising:
  - (a) a plurality of electronic color coded displays comprising data fields wherein the displays are modeled upon or closely depict hospital information formats selected from the list comprising: order forms, patient records, status reports, information screens, medical imaging results or lab results;
  - (b) a plurality of terminals, wherein each terminal has user interactive means for displaying the color coded images for user interaction with the system;
  - (c) biometric means operatively associated with each terminal for efficient identification of the authorized user;
  - (d) computer means enabling images to be accessed in an interactive manner by an authorized user;
  - (e) data storage means;
  - (f) a central data processing system supporting system logic wherein the central data processing system can transfer information between the plurality of terminals and one or more database servers;
  - (g) one or more database servers for transferring information between said data storage means and said central data processing system; and
  - (h) system logic, modeled on hospital procedures, wherein said logic comprises two types of decision support, one that is user interactive and one that functions independently of user commands.
2. The computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said displays are comprise symbols that are used in a hospital.
3. The computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said order forms are used for

performing a task selected from the list comprising ordering diagnostic tests, ordering lab tests, prescribing medications and prescribing treatments.

4. The computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said status reports provide data pertaining to requirements of an individual or a collection of individuals.
5. The computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said information screens provide warnings with or without additional information.
6. The computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said user interactive means is a touch screen.
7. The computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said biometric means is an optical scanner.
8. The computer-based system according to claim 6, wherein said optical scanner recognizes the fingerprints, thumbprints or retina of the authorized users.